

1 broadcast outlets in the same market is necessary.  
2 Increasing media consolidation reduces competition,  
3 which translates into the cutting of resources in  
4 the interest of feeding short-term corporate  
5 profits. This means further media consolidation  
6 would also hinder the kind of investigative  
7 reporting that helped solve two civil rights era  
8 murders and foster a shallow, He Said, She Said,  
9 kind of coverage of complex issues. And it would  
10 also likely silence the opinions of those whose  
11 views may be considered outside the mainstream.

12 I know that there are profit minded  
13 individuals who argue the right media regulations  
14 changes are necessary but I don't think you can put  
15 a price tag on the First Amendment. Thank you.

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Mr.  
17 Lewin.

18 MR. LEWIN: I'm Joe Lewin, President and  
19 General Manager of WHTM, the ABC affiliate here in  
20 Harrisburg. Our station is part of the Allbritton  
21 Communications Company based in Arlington, Virginia.

22 Allbritton is a family owned company  
23 that operates seven television stations in small,  
24 mid-sized, and large markets. It also owns some  
25 small newspapers and NewsChannel 8, the first

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1 independent, 24 hour, local news channel in  
2 Washington. And most recently, the specialty  
3 newspaper and website, The Politico and Politco.com.

4 I want to start by asking you to  
5 remember 32 years ago what the television landscape  
6 looked like. In 1975, you were probably watching  
7 All in the Family and M\*A\*S\*H or Happy Days on three  
8 or four channels. None of us were watching Fox,  
9 ESPN, CNN, CSPAN, or any of the hundreds of cable  
10 channels now available or satellite television or  
11 radio and there was no access to Podcasts or  
12 BlackBerries, or videos, cell phones, no VCRs, no  
13 DVDs. And hundreds of thousands of informational  
14 websites, that was a Star Trek fantasy.

15 Monumental understates the changes in  
16 our world since the Wiley Commission adopted the  
17 ownership rules in 1975. The business model for  
18 entertainment and information content suppliers has  
19 been thrown completely off its axis. Broadcasters  
20 are desperately attempting to remain viable as we  
21 lurch forward on the shockwave of technology. But  
22 we're excited to do so.

23 But fitting media into the neat 1960s  
24 style regulatory box isn't warranted. We believe  
25 it's incumbent on you to both recognize this reality

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1 and make changes to permit entrepreneurs to adapt.  
2 Why? Because without change, local television  
3 stations can't remain economically viable and  
4 competitive in a multi-channel world. I compete  
5 every day in Harrisburg with cable and satellite  
6 companies that each deliver hundreds of channels  
7 with six local full-powered television stations,  
8 more than 60 local radio stations, six major daily  
9 newspapers, countless internet sites consumed by a  
10 population that has adopted this technology faster  
11 than almost any product in history.

12 Literally and figuratively, I'm being  
13 bypassed. But my station remains true to its public  
14 service responsibilities. WHTM currently broadcasts  
15 27 hours of regularly scheduled local news and  
16 community affairs programming per week. Added to  
17 the 13 and a half weekly hours of national news,  
18 fully one-quarter of our broadcast week contains  
19 news and public affairs programming. We also  
20 separately broadcast a full-time local weather  
21 service on our digital subchannel.

22 In addition, last year WHTM ran public  
23 service announcement with a value of nearly \$2  
24 million. WHTM has helped raise millions more for a  
25 wide range of community groups. In the just ended

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1 election season, we provided local viewers with  
2 hours of election coverage, including free airtime,  
3 in-depth interviews with local, state, and federal  
4 candidates, issue pieces, analysis with a local  
5 pollster and a live senate debate.

6 Harrisburg citizens would be poorly  
7 served if WHTM and other local television stations  
8 lost the ability to provide this and other truly  
9 local public service programming. A timely example  
10 of the value of localism is last year's winter  
11 storm. Where do you think citizens got their up to  
12 the minute information about weather, road  
13 conditions, school closings? They watched and  
14 listened to local broadcasters.

15 But this programming is expensive. What  
16 happens to localism if my station and other TV  
17 broadcasters can't achieve improved economies of  
18 scale with multiple competitive channels? Look at  
19 what's happened with local newspapers. How many  
20 cities still have competing dailies? The tragic  
21 demise of The Washington Star newspaper, right in  
22 Washington, was foretold in the summer of 1975, when  
23 the Commission refused to permit the Allbrittons to  
24 keep the newspaper alive with funds from WJLA,  
25 leading inexorably to a monopoly newspaper in our

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1 nation's capital. How did that help diversity?

2 Now the handwriting is on the wall for  
3 local television. If we can't sustain a reasonable  
4 level of economic liability, the number of stations  
5 with local news operations will surely dwindle,  
6 leaving viewers with fewer program choices. This  
7 should be of great concern to the Commission. The  
8 loss of local programming and local television  
9 service, would be a perverse result for those  
10 concerned that local broadcast consolidation will  
11 lead to fewer independent local voices.

12 At the same time, we can see substantial  
13 benefits when television stations are able to  
14 amortize the very high costs of local news  
15 programming over multiple platforms. In Washington,  
16 witness our WJLA, NewsChannel 8, Politico,  
17 Politico.com combination. While the unique  
18 circumstances that support these media voices there,  
19 may not exist here in Harrisburg or in most of the  
20 rest of the country, the need to spread programming  
21 costs may be the only way many local affiliates can  
22 survive.

23 Thank you very much for conducting this  
24 hearing in Harrisburg and for your constructive  
25 efforts to achieve a fair balance among competitive

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1 policy concerns.

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Ms.  
3 McConnell.

4 MS. McCONNELL: Good morning, Chairman  
5 Martin, Members of the Commission. My name is Beth  
6 McConnell. I am the director of the Pennsylvania  
7 Public Interest Research Group Education Fund.  
8 That's the PennPIRG Education Fund.

9 PennPIRG is a nonprofit, nonpartisan,  
10 public interest advocacy organization. When special  
11 interests pursue their own narrow agenda at the  
12 expense of the public good, PennPIRG acts as the  
13 public's advocate. We use a variety of strategies  
14 to advance consumer, media, democracy, and health  
15 and safety reforms. We craft policies that would  
16 advance the public interest, educate decision makers  
17 about needed reforms, publish research and  
18 educational literature, organize citizens to get  
19 involved in issues that affect their lives, even by  
20 going door-to-door to bring our message to them.

21 But no matter what strategy PennPIRG  
22 uses or other groups of varying political or  
23 ideological views use, it is critical that we have a  
24 diverse and antagonistic media competing to cover  
25 local, regional, and state news, in-depth, and to

1 cover it fairly.

2 Time and again, special interests that  
3 we battle are at an advantage. They don't have to  
4 go door-to-door. They don't have to speak to senior  
5 citizen centers or meet with community groups to win  
6 support for their ideas. Instead, they purchase  
7 expensive advertising in the media to drown out  
8 other views or contribute financial resources to  
9 electoral campaigns to win access and influence at  
10 the public's expense.

11 To counteract that, PennPIRG and others  
12 rely on the media to communicate with and mobilize  
13 average citizens. And we are extremely fortunate  
14 here in Pennsylvania to have many dedicated  
15 reporters, talented news producers, committed  
16 station owners that are in the news business to  
17 serve the public. And in the face of challenging  
18 budgets, staffing and political pressure, there's  
19 plenty of examples of quality journalism to point to  
20 in Pennsylvania.

21 But consolidation has made it harder to  
22 rely on the media to do in-depth stories on these  
23 and other issues. As profits of large corporations  
24 that own the media become paramount to quality news,  
25 newsroom staff are slashed. Reporters tell me, off

1 the record for fear of retribution, they simply  
2 aren't given the resources to cover stories that  
3 require investigative reporting. They complain that  
4 rather than being given time to focus on an area of  
5 expertise such as financial services, healthcare or  
6 the environment, they're forced to cover multiple  
7 beats and have difficulty mastering any topic.  
8 Instead, they're forced to rely too heavily on press  
9 releases and talking points from those that aim to  
10 shapen the public's views in order to meet their  
11 deadlines.

12 Quite honestly, I often find my own  
13 press releases appearing in print word-for-word,  
14 with the reporter's byline, with very little  
15 questioning or opposing views.

16 This does a disservice to the public, as  
17 well as to the many reporters who entered the news  
18 business to serve the public. The situation would  
19 worsen if the FCC were to allow for cross-media  
20 mergers, such as allowing the owners of the major  
21 daily newspaper to also own a broadcast station in  
22 the same market.

23 Of note, a recent report actually  
24 analyzed concentration here in the Harrisburg market  
25 and how allowing cross-media mergers would violate

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standards held by the Department of Justice on market concentration. Every merger between a major TV station and the leading newspaper here in this Harrisburg market, would violate the DOJ's merger guidelines by a very wide margin. For example, a merger between the dominant newspaper and the top television station would create a single entity that would account for over half of the market. The market share of the top firm would go from just under 40 percent to over 60 percent. And because, moreover because one newspaper dominates that market already, the second ranked outlet would be completely dwarfed. When the top four firms have more than 60 percent of the market, it is considered a tight oligopoly by the DOJ.

FCC should not be embracing policies that will further the creation of media oligopolies. Instead, FCC should be considering ways to enhance localism and diversity of ownership in the media marketplace.

Recent court decisions rejecting the FCC's previous attempts to weaken media ownership rules present an opportunity to go back to the drawing board and do the right thing. Instead, strengthen media ownership rules to help ensure the

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1 welfare of the public and a free society. A  
2 marketplace of ideas with only one or two ideas for  
3 sale isn't competitive. And as we'll hear time and  
4 time again today, it's boring and repetitive and  
5 uninspiring. Pennsylvania and all of America  
6 deserves better.

7 And I thank you very much for coming to  
8 hear our views today.

9 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Bishop  
10 Peterson.

11 BISHOP PETERSON: Thank you and good  
12 morning. My name is Bishop Benjamin Peterson and I  
13 serve as the Presiding Prelate of the Restoration  
14 Ministries and Senior Pastor of the Greater Bible  
15 Way Temple in Philadelphia and Pastor of the Bible  
16 Way Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. I also  
17 serve as Executive Bishop of the Bible Way Churches  
18 world-wide, for the Bishops and Recording Secretary.  
19 Also I am the Vice President of the Pennsylvania  
20 Association of Apostolic Churches.

21 I think you and am grateful for the  
22 opportunity to offer my views to you today on media  
23 ownership and thank you for visiting Pennsylvania to  
24 hold this public hearing.

25 As a pastor of 13 years, preacher of the

1 Gospel of 30 years, a community leader, an African  
2 American and minister to a low income neighborhood,  
3 I care deeply about how the media serves my  
4 community.

5 The larger a media outlet gets, the  
6 further the owners are from the community it claims  
7 to serve. The further from the community, the more  
8 out of touch the owners are to the issues, cultures  
9 and challenges that must be addressed. I am  
10 concerned that greater media consolidation will  
11 silence voices that must be heard and will  
12 contribute to greater insulation or isolation of the  
13 poor and disfranchised, make it easier for the  
14 public and policy makers to turn a blind eye to the  
15 problems facing neighborhoods in Philadelphia,  
16 Harrisburg and beyond.

17 As a religious leader, I see how  
18 mainstream media often spotlights controversial  
19 happenings in the religious community. However, too  
20 often broadcasters and papers fail to portray the  
21 role that faith plays in strengthening the fiber of  
22 our neighborhoods through community building,  
23 providing a forum for civic engagement and inspiring  
24 hope in people's lives every day. When local media  
25 outlets are owned and operated by companies that

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1 have little connection with the community that they  
2 serve, stories of feeding the hungry, clothing the  
3 homeless, do not make headlines.

4 For example, my church in Philadelphia  
5 has spearheaded a community center called the  
6 Founder's Center in memory of my parents in West  
7 Philadelphia, presenting an opportunity for youth to  
8 learn, grow, and build relationships and providing  
9 an alternative to hanging on the street corner.

10 This family life center, which is called the  
11 Founder's Center, will have a gymnasium, recreation  
12 center, and other facilities for the youth. The  
13 media in Philadelphia has done a wonderful job of  
14 covering our efforts. This underscores the power of  
15 the media in changing our communities for the  
16 better. If our local pressrooms are bought by  
17 distant owners and stripped of staff and resources,  
18 they will be ill-equipped to cover the local issues  
19 that matter most to lifting up our neighborhoods.  
20 The struggle for media that presents the breadth and  
21 diversity of the experience of people of color in  
22 this country is one of extremely high stakes. There  
23 is a direct link between the way that people of  
24 color are and are not portrayed in the media and the  
25 way that the larger community reacts to us on a

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1 personal and policy making level. The media has  
2 convinced mainstream society that race-based  
3 privilege and discrimination are a thing of the  
4 past. They do this as much by what they show us,  
5 what they don't show, the countless incidents of  
6 discrimination that people of color experience every  
7 day, are almost invisible in our media. This  
8 absence are the direct result of big media  
9 corporations almost never carrying independent  
10 minority programming, masking discriminatory  
11 business practices as good business, and they target  
12 white audiences.

13 Local stations nation-wide rarely serve  
14 the needs or reflect the values of people of color.  
15 Eight out of ten Latino homes are not served by a  
16 Latino owned station. Nine out of ten African  
17 American homes are not served by an African American  
18 owned station. Nine out of ten Asian homes are not  
19 served by an Asian owned station.

20 As I go to my seat, the lack of  
21 programming for and about people of color is of  
22 great cause for concern. Our children are  
23 vulnerable to violent and explicit programming that  
24 overwhelmingly features people of color. Our prime  
25 time hours are full of negative stereotypes of

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1 people of color who are all often too much  
2 wrongfully associated with criminal behavior,  
3 violence, poverty, and welfare. I believe the FCC  
4 should not even consider allowing increased media  
5 consolidation until the Agency has effectively dealt  
6 with your mandate to increase diversity in media  
7 ownership. We need the media that truly reflects  
8 the diversity of our nation, a voice that reaches  
9 millions of homes, to empower, is too powerful to  
10 ignore. The FCC must promote policies that ensure  
11 that our media serve our diverse citizenry.

12 Only when all Americans have access to a  
13 truly equal and robust media marketplace of ideas,  
14 will the dream of a nation that finds its strength  
15 in the diverse viewpoints of its citizens and it  
16 will be realized. So now today, we've come for  
17 preparation, for presentation, and we wait for  
18 manifestation of a level of a playing field.

19 Thank you very much.

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Mr.  
21 Quinn.

22 MR. QUINN: Thank you. My name is Paul  
23 Quinn. I'm the President and General Manager of  
24 WGAL TV, serving the Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lebanon,  
25 York TV market, a position I've held for 14 years.

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1                   WGAL is one of Hearst Argyle's 29  
2 television stations, serving markets ranging in size  
3 from Boston, number seven, to our market, number 41,  
4 Salinas, Monterey, California, down to 124. WGAL is  
5 deeply committed to serving the local community.  
6 This is a core ethic for us and it is ingrained in  
7 the culture of our corporate leadership and the  
8 managers of each of the Hearst Argyle television  
9 stations.

10                   To give you an example of what we do,  
11 WGAL broadcasts more than 30 hours a week of  
12 regularly scheduled local news and another 20 plus  
13 hours of public affairs and national news  
14 programming. We also broadcast separately a full-  
15 time, 24/7 local weather channel. In the past year  
16 alone WGAL has sponsored fund-raising events that  
17 have generated more than \$10 million for local  
18 charitable organizations, some of whom are here  
19 today to speak on our behalf.

20                   In the past two years, we've conducted  
21 16 highly publicized town meetings throughout our  
22 service area. In the 2006 election season, WGAL,  
23 like all the Hearst Argyle stations, aired a minimum  
24 of ten minutes per day of candidate centered  
25 political coverage the four weeks prior to the

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1 primary and the general elections. Because of our  
2 tremendous resources that Hearst Argyle provides, we  
3 are able to do such things as stream today's  
4 coverage of this meeting live on the internet  
5 through our website. But I would ask the citizens  
6 of this market, how would our community be served if  
7 local television stations lost their financial  
8 ability to produce the types of local public service  
9 programs that we currently provide?

10 Local televisions stations today are  
11 facing an unprecedented competition for viewers and  
12 advertisers, including from video sources that did  
13 not exist in 2003 when the Commission last reviewed  
14 its local television ownership rules. Changes in  
15 the video program production and distribution  
16 technology and audience fragmentation resulting from  
17 viewer access to hundreds of channels of television  
18 programming are placing unprecedented economic  
19 stress on the nation's local television stations.  
20 In view of these profound changes, local stations  
21 such as WGAL simply will not be able to serve our  
22 local communities in the ways they deserve if local  
23 television ownership rules are not brought into  
24 conformity with today's economic realities.

25 I know industry critics have a

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1 spontaneous negative reflex reaction to any notion  
2 of reforming, however modestly, the local television  
3 ownership rules. But local television stations  
4 operate as small businesses that have to compete  
5 with large national cable and satellite companies  
6 offering hundreds of channels. Yes, those big  
7 national multi-channel providers perform a valuable  
8 national program service, but they do little, if  
9 anything, in terms of local public service,  
10 especially when compared to what the local  
11 television stations provide. If we are going to  
12 continue providing this level of public service,  
13 we're going to need the ability to amortize our  
14 ever-increasing fixed cost across larger platforms.

15 WGAL operates as a stand alone station,  
16 but Hearst Argyle owns and manages two stations in  
17 four of our markets. The creation of those local  
18 duopolies has produced dramatic increase in local  
19 news and public service programming for their  
20 viewers. For example, in the Boston, Manchester  
21 market, Hearst Argyle acquired WMUR in 2001, which  
22 is paired with WCDV. Since it's acquisition, WMUR's  
23 ratings have grown double digit percentages every  
24 year, as a direct result of Hearst Argyle's  
25 investments in their news gathering and reporting

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1 capabilities. WMUR is now widely recognized as one  
2 of the nation's leaders in local and state political  
3 coverage and is the site or co-host of many primary  
4 presidential debates.

5 In Sacramento, Hearst Argyle owns KCRA  
6 and KQCA. Previously, KQCA had been a struggling  
7 independent in last place with no local news and on  
8 the brink of financial failure. Under Hearst  
9 Argyle's leadership and commitment, KQCA launched  
10 local programming and prime time newscasts and is  
11 fully committed to local public service initiatives  
12 and local programming.

13 In Kansas City, Hearst Argyle owns KNBC  
14 and manages KCWE. Without the financial resources  
15 and professional support from KNBC, KCWE would never  
16 have been launched in 1996, let alone provide the  
17 public service programming that it does today.

18 I hope these examples illustrate why I  
19 respectfully urge the Commission to modestly reform  
20 its local television ownership rules. In written  
21 comments in this proceeding, Hearst Argyle has  
22 proposed a local TV ownership rule grounded in the  
23 fundamental principles of program and viewpoint  
24 diversity. We respectfully urge you to give this  
25 proposal your most careful consideration.

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1                   Thank you for conducting this hearing in  
2 Harrisburg and your constructive efforts to fairly  
3 balance the public policy concerns in this important  
4 proceeding.

5                   MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. And  
6 audience, would you please join us in a round of  
7 applause for all of our panelists?

8                   We now are turning ourselves to the  
9 public comment portion of today's hearing. Each  
10 speaker will be allowed two minutes. It is my  
11 unfortunate duty to strictly enforce that two minute  
12 limit. We have many, many people who have signed up  
13 and while we have this wonderful venue here at the  
14 Whitaker Center, they have an event this evening, so  
15 we do have an obligation to adjourn the program as  
16 it is scheduled. But we will ensure that we hear  
17 everyone who has come to speak today.

18                   If I could get at that microphone,  
19 Charlie Smithgall, Floyd Stokes, Joseph Capita,  
20 Dennis Owens, and Betty Fish? Those are the first  
21 five people who signed up. If they could please go  
22 to that microphone, in that order. We're going in  
23 numeric order.

24                   At this microphone here, Anne Durr Lyon,  
25 Ron Martin, Larry Gardner, Michael Hady, Warren

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1 Gittlens. And we'll get going in just one moment.

2 We are ready to begin the public comment  
3 portion. Charlie Smithgall.

4 MR. SMITHGALL: Hi, I'm Charlie  
5 Smithgall, former mayor of the City of Lancaster for  
6 eight years from 1998 to 2006. Without the local  
7 media and the attention that we got from all the  
8 media, my job would have been almost impossible to  
9 do. There was many emergency situations that would  
10 arise that I would just call the media, and  
11 especially the television media, and advise them of  
12 what was going on, and they would get out clear,  
13 accurate, and concise information to all of our  
14 viewers.

15 The City of Lancaster supplied water to  
16 over 180,000 people. We had some water emergency  
17 problems, especially one big fire. Channel 8 got  
18 the word out to everybody to conserve water. We  
19 increased our water production and had a situation  
20 where nobody ran out of water.

21 During several hurricane seasons, we had  
22 a lot of trees down. I did declare states of  
23 emergency. They clearly and concisely put out every  
24 piece of information that needed to be done, road  
25 closings, etcetera.

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1                   They sponsored many, many public events  
2                   that created a lot of interest in the City of  
3                   Lancaster. They saved lives. We had some large  
4                   events that had over 40,000 people at. Channel 8  
5                   specifically has Doppler Radar. They would call me  
6                   on my cell phone and say, you'd better get this  
7                   event over, you're going to have a severe  
8                   thunderstorm right on you in four minutes. We did  
9                   it. The governor even did that.

10                   They sponsored many, many events, like  
11                   I've said. They've done an awful lot for the city  
12                   and as one of the Commissioners stated, it feels  
13                   like your news media was always around your father.  
14                   I even had a world's record. I had the news media  
15                   in the recovery room before I woke up from major  
16                   surgery. They weren't supposed to be there.

17                   But trust me, the local media does what  
18                   they have to do. They do a great job of it. They  
19                   report everything, whether it's good or bad, but  
20                   it's always fair, concise, and balanced. And I hope  
21                   you abide by one of my rules. If it's not broke,  
22                   don't fix it.

23                   Thank you.

24                   MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr.  
25                   Smithgall. Floyd Stokes.

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1 MR. STOKES: Good morning. My name is  
2 Floyd Stokes and I am here to speak in support of  
3 the local TV stations in Harrisburg. Local stations  
4 have supported my community efforts for almost 15  
5 years, primarily, WHTM and WHP.

6 I am currently Executive Director of the  
7 American Literacy Corporation and the SuperReader  
8 program, which was founded in 2000. We are a  
9 nonprofit organization that promotes reading to  
10 children up to fifth grade. In addition to visiting  
11 schools, Head Start programs, libraries, and other  
12 community based organizations, the ALC has community  
13 events that the public is invited to, such as the  
14 Children's Literacy Festival and the Super Bowl of  
15 Books.

16 Activities and resources at these events  
17 include free books, reading stations, arts and  
18 crafts, fitness activities, and entertainment. They  
19 are free to the public. Local TV stations'  
20 partnership is invaluable. They air public service  
21 announcements for our community programs, station  
22 personnel sit on committees, read to students,  
23 perform in skits, emcee at formal events like our  
24 annual dinner and annual breakfast. They also visit  
25 our communities, interact with the public, and hand

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1 out prizes.

2 Local stations provide an important  
3 service to the community. Without their support, we  
4 would not be as successful as we are today. Our  
5 message of Read to Succeed is being heard and seen  
6 throughout Central Pennsylvania because of the  
7 support we get from them. Illiteracy is such a  
8 serious issue in our community, Harrisburg is  
9 fortunate to have the local TV stations as partners  
10 to help combat this issue. A book, "Pick it Up,  
11 Pick it Up."

12 Thank you for your time.

13 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Joseph  
14 Capita.

15 MR. CAPITA: Good morning. My name is  
16 Joseph Capita and I am President and CEO of the  
17 United Way of the Capital Region in Harrisburg. As  
18 a charity, we rely on the generosity of our  
19 community to help us make the Capital Region a  
20 better place to live, work, and raise families. We  
21 also rely on our media outlets, including  
22 television, radio and print to support our efforts.

23 I'd like to give just one example of how  
24 one of those outlets, WHTM, is helping us make a  
25 difference. WHTM ABC27's commitment to United Way

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1 starts at the top. Joe Lewin, the General Manager,  
2 serves on our Board and has also served with us in a  
3 number of other volunteer capacities. For the past  
4 year, the United Way and WHTM have been working  
5 together to assist those in need through the  
6 Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. So far, 16  
7 people have been profiled and all of them helped.  
8 Last year, WHTM produced and aired 654 public  
9 service announcements for us and those PSAs were  
10 valued at nearly \$150,000. WHTM's on-air  
11 personalities are always available to appear in our  
12 videos, PSAs and to emcee United Way events.

13 Five years ago, WHTM produced an award  
14 winning campaign video for us, free of charge. This  
15 year they have again agreed to produce our campaign  
16 video at no charge. In 2003, WHTM was presented  
17 with one of our most coveted awards, the Excellence  
18 in Leadership Award, for their many contributions to  
19 our organization and community.

20 About three months ago, I received a  
21 call from WHTM's General Manager, Joe Lewin. He had  
22 seen a press release that said we were quite a bit  
23 away from achieving our fund-raising goal. He asked  
24 what they could do to help and said that the station  
25 was at our disposal. I can't envision a more

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1 supportive and caring relationship than the one we  
2 have with WHTM. We just couldn't help all the  
3 people we help, change the lives we change, or do  
4 all the things we do without the support of our  
5 media partners in this community.

6 I'd like to thank you for the  
7 opportunity to testify about the positive  
8 relationships we have with our local media in the  
9 Tri-County area. Thank you.

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Dennis  
11 Owens.

12 MR. OWENS: Good morning. My name is  
13 Dennis Owens, an anchor and reporter with WHTM,  
14 owned by the Allbritton family out of Washington,  
15 D.C. We are not locally owned, but I come with a  
16 very simple statement today. Never has this market  
17 been better served by this station. I think the  
18 evidence overwhelmingly supports that.

19 I started here 14 years ago. At that  
20 time, we did two one-half hour newscasts at 6:00 and  
21 11:00. We now do five hours a day. And it's not  
22 just about adding more content. We understand the  
23 viewers have the world at their fingertips, whether  
24 it's a remote control to access the cable world, or  
25 a click of a mouse to access the internet world, we

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